

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13

AF-08 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01

LAB-04 /097 W

----- 019246

R 271659Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8660

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 6619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: GOP STRATEGY ON FARM OCCUPATIONS

REF: (A) LISBON 6529 (DTG 231205Z SEP 76), (B) IR 6 879

0529 76

SUMMARY: GOP OFFICIALS MET ON SEPT 25 FOR A FINAL STRATEGY
SESSION PREPARATORY TO CLEARING ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED FARMS.
THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING ITS CAREFUL EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE
POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE WHEN ACTUAL CLEARING OPERATIONS BEGIN
ON OCT 4. IF THE PCP-DOMINATED UNIONS RESIST WHEN THE TALKING
STAGE IS ENDED, THEY WILL FACE A DETERMINED GOVERNMENT BACKED
UP BY TOOPS. END SUMMARY

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1. FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR LAND CLEARING: KEY GOP OFFICIALS MET ON SEPT 25 FOR A FINAL STRATEGY SESSION PREPARATORY TO CLEARING ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED FARMS ANNOUNCED FOR SEPT 27 (REF A). FOLLOWING THE MEETING THEY ISSUED A STATEMENT MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- CONTACTS WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WILL CONTINUE AND BE EXPANDED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

-- THE GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY INFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN. THE PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, IN ADDITION TO RESTORING OCCUPIED LAND TO ITS OWNERS, WILL GUARANTEE RESERVE LAND RIGHTS (AREA OWNERS OF LARGE TRACTS ARE PERMITTED TO RETAIN) AND INCLUDE FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS AND E049048-ATIONS CONSIDERED TO BE OF PRIORITY IMPORTANCE.

-- FUNDS WILL BE GRANTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HELP ABSORB EXCESS MANPOWER DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF THE LAND CLEARING OPERATIONS.

-- EMERGENCY CREDIT FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHOSE LANDS ARE RETURNED.

-- CONTRARY TO ALARMIST REPORTS, THERE IS EVERY EXPECTATION THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND. RECENT STATEMENTS AND CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RURAL WORKERS REINFORCE THIS VIEW.

-- SHOULD BREACHES OF PUBLIC ORDER OCCUR, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

2. GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE OUTLINED: ON SEPT 24, MAJ HUGO ROCHA, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION, OUTLINED FOR ARMA THE GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE FOR THE LAND CLEARING OPERATION (REF B). THE WEEK OF SEPT 27 WOULD BE DEVOTED TO FURTHER CONTACTS DESIGNED TO SECURE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PROGRAM. SHOULD PROBLEMS ARISE, CIVIL GOVERNORS WOULD SEEK ON-THE-SPOT
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SOLUTIONS. IF FORCE IS REQUIRED TO CLEAR THE LAND, THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO DO THE JOB WOULD BE EMPLOYED. THE FIRST LAND CLEARING OPERATIONS WOULD NOT BE INITIATED UNTIL THE WEEK OF OCT 4. ROCHA WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PROCESS COULD BE COMPLETED WITHOUT MAJOR VIOLENCE, THOUGH THE FAR-LEFT UDP COULD PROVOKE INCIDENTS.

3. CONSERVATIVES REMAIN SKEPTIC: AT A MEETING IN RIO

MAIOR ON SEPT 24, THE CONSERVATIVE PORTUGUESE FEDERATION OF FARMERS (CAP) SIGNALLED ITS SKEPTISM REGARDING THE WHOLE PROCESS OF LAND CLEARING. FOR CAP THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. THEY DID NOT GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER: THE THEORY BEHIND THE CURRENT AGRARIAN REFORM LAW.

4. COMMUNISTS KICK OFF CAMPAIGN: THE PCP UNOFFICIALLY KICKED OFF ITS LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH A WELL-ATTENDED, WELL-ORGANIZED MUSIC FESTIVAL IN LISBON SEPT 24-26. DESPITE INTERMITTANT SHOWERS, THE THREE-DAY EVENT DREW THOUSANDS, MANY OF THEM BUSSED IN FROM PCP STRONGHOLDS IN THE ALENTEJO. THE FESTIVAL FEATURED POP ARTISTS FROM HALF A DOZEN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL U.S. ROCK GROUPS. POLITICAL HIGHLIGHT WAS PCP LEADER CUNHAL'S SPEECH ON THE CLOSING DAY. FLANKED BY FRATERNAL DELEGATIONS FROM A SCORE OF "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, EAST GERMANY, CUBA, VIET-NAM, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE, CUNHAL MADE CLEAR THAT THE PCP WAS GOING BACK TO BASICS. HIS FOUR-PART MESSAGE:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 6619

-- COMMUNISTS REVNIN PREPARED TO JOIN W

H ALL OTHER
DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN DEFENSE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING
CLASS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CONQUESTS
OF APRIL 25.

-- IN SPITE OF JUSTIFIED CRITICISMS OF THE PS LEADERSHIP
AND THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, COMMUNISTS REMAIN CONVINCED
THAT SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST, AND OTHER DEMOCRATS MUST BAND
TOGETHER.

-- AN ALLIANCE OF DEMOCRATS TO OVERCOME THE FORCES OF
REACTION IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND NEVER
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AGAINST THE PCP.

-- PCP, "A SOLID BLOC OF 100,000 WILLS," REMAINS UNITED
AND "FIRM AS A ROCK."

5. SOCIALISTS REJECT COMMUNIST WOOING: AS IF ANTICIPATING
CUNHAL'S LATEST INVITATION TO ALLIANCE, THE PS LISBON-AREA
FEDERATION ON SEPT 24 PUBLICLY REPUDIATED PCP AND MDP
ATTEMPTS TO INDUCE SOCIALISTS INTO JOINING UNITY SLATES
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE SOCIALISTS REAFFIRMED THEIR
INTENTION TO RUN ALONE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS.

6. CDS WOOS PPD: FOLLOWING A SEPT 26 MEETING
OF THE CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE, VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA
COSTA SAID THAT THE CDS WOULD RUN ITS OWN CANDIDATES FOR
LOCAL ELECTIONS SINCE THE PPC HAD REJECTED THE CDS PROPOSAL
FOR JOINT SLATES. COSTA SOUGHT TO REOPEN THE QUESTION OF
AN ALLIANCE BY STATING THAT THE PPD LEADERSHIP HAD
IGNORED THE DESIRE OF ITS LOCAL MEMBERS FOR SUCH AN
ALLIANCE. SA CARNEIRO RETORTED FOR THE PPD ON SEPT 27 BY
CALLING XO A PAV AMONG ALL THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, RATHER
THAN A PPD-CDS ALLIANCE.

7. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING ITS CAREFUL
EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE WHEN LAND
CLEARING OPERATIONS BEGIN. THE STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING
THE SEPT 27 MEETING OF GOP OFFICIALS IS CAREFULLY BALANCED.
IF THE PCP-DOMINATED UNIONS RESIST WHEN THE TALKING STAGE

IS ENDED, THEY WILL FACE A DETERMINED GOVERNMENT BARPED ARKLP DG TROO
PS.
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